

### REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 22-24 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1, 8, 15 and 22-24 being independent.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and amended to correct minor informalities and improve their idiomatic English form.

In the claims, independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended to better set forth Applicant's claimed invention. In addition, new Claims 22-24 have been added to provide an additional scope of protection. Claims 16-21 have been cancelled.

Initially, Claims 3-7, 10-14 and 17-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for the reasons set forth in paragraph 3 of the Office Action. In response to this rejection, Claims 3 and 10 now depend from Claims 2 and 9, respectively, to provide sufficient antecedent basis for a "second user action." In addition, these claims have been amended to make it clearer that the second user action selects an icon of a peripheral locally connected to a different information processing apparatus. Accordingly, it is submitted that all the claims are in compliance with the particularity and distinctness requirements of the statute, and thus reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Goshey '613. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention as set forth in Claim 1 relates to an information processing apparatus which can communicate through a network with each of a plurality of information processing apparatuses connected to the network. The apparatus includes display means for displaying an icon indicative of each of the plurality of information processing

apparatuses onto a virtual system display screen, obtaining means for obtaining information of peripherals locally connected to the information processing apparatus from each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses, and first control means for displaying icons indicative of the peripherals locally connected to the information processing apparatus corresponding to the icon as a target of user action. As amended, Claim 1 includes second control means for changing positions of the icons which have already been displayed on the virtual system display screen on the basis of a display space of the icon of the peripheral which is newly displayed on the virtual system display screen.

Support for the amendment can be found, for example, in Figure 3B (see steps S207-S211, for example), and the accompanying specification beginning on page 12, line 1 of the specification.

Claims 8 and 15 relate to a data processing method and computer readable memory, respectively, and correspond to Claim 1. These claims have thus also been amended to include a second control step of changing positions of the icons which have already been displayed on the virtual system display screen based on display space of the icon of the peripheral which is newly displayed on the virtual system display screen.

The Goshey patent relates to a system for sharing peripheral devices over a network. Goshey is said to include an information processing apparatus including display means for displaying an icon indicative of each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses onto a virtual system display screen, obtaining means for obtaining information on the peripherals, and first control means for displaying icons indicative of the peripherals locally connected to the information processing apparatus. Goshey is also said to teach second control means for calculating display positions of the icons which have already been displayed on the

virtual system display screen based on display space of the icon of the peripheral which is newly displayed on the virtual system display screen.

In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, however, Goshey does not teach or suggest, inter alia, second control means that changes positions of the icons which have already been displayed on the virtual system display screen on the basis of a display space of the icon of the peripheral which is newly displayed on the virtual system display screen. As understood, Goshey provides a list 206 of peripheral devices that are connected to a computer, e.g., computer 112b. Goshey is also capable of listing peripheral devices that are connected to another computer, e.g., computer 112d. This allows the user of one computer, e.g., computer 112d, to access and issue commands to peripheral devices that are connected to a second computer, e.g., host computer 112b, as is they were connected to computer 112d (see column 5, lines 49-64).

Accordingly, it is submitted that Goshey fails to anticipate or render obvious Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 1, 8 and 15.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 2-7 and 9-14 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

New Claims 22-24 are also submitted to be patentable over the cited art. Claim 22 relates to an information processing apparatus that include display means, obtaining means and first control means as set forth in Claim 1. In addition, second control means controls the display means to display each of the icons displayed by the first control means such that a user may recognize whether a driver for the peripheral corresponding to the icon has been

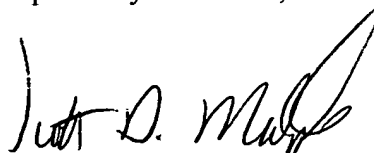
installed to make the peripheral available. Support for these claims can be found, for example, in Figure 4 and the accompanying specification on page 10, line 23, where it is disclosed (as a non-limiting example) that icon 403ad is displayed in gray.

Claims 23 and 24 relate to a data processing method and a computer readable memory and correspond to Claim 22.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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